Islamophobia and the Rule of Law

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PHILIP H. CORBOY LAW CENTER
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25 E. PEARSON STREET, CHICAGO
Islamophobia and the Rule of Law

Pluralism is a defining feature of American society. Perhaps the most celebrated development in American law in the latter half of the twentieth century has been the effort to ensure the equal rights of minorities. Yet discrimination persists, and worse, manifests itself in new and virulent forms.

Although discrimination against Muslims and Arabs did not begin with 9/11, the horrific events of that day raised the level of discrimination and hate speech directed against people from the Middle East. The recent attacks in Paris, San Bernardino, and Brussels, and the extreme rhetoric of some political candidates concerning Muslims and immigration, have brought the phenomenon of Islamophobia into sharp relief.

This panel discussion will focus on the history of discrimination against Muslims and Arabs in law and American society; the constitutional dimensions of unequal treatment of religious and ethnic minorities, and the right of free expression; the US immigration system and its treatment of political refugees and peoples from different countries; and the ethical obligations of attorneys in the administration of justice to show respect and to act without discrimination with respect to race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin.

Agenda

**Historical Perspective and Current Problems**  
Amer Zahr

**Constitutional Law**  
Juan Perea

**Immigration Law**  
Vivian Khalaf

**Legal Ethics**  
John Breen

The discussion will be moderated by the Hon. William J. Haddad (Ret.)

*This program has been approved for 1.5 hours of General MCLE credit; Professional Responsibility may be offered pending approval.*
Speakers

**AMER ZAHR** is an Arab-American comedian, speaker, writer, and adjunct professor at the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law. He will examine the historical and current treatment of Muslims and Arabs in the American legal system.

**JUAN PEREA** is a professor of law at Loyola University Chicago, where he teaches and writes extensively on issues related to Constitutional law, racial inequality, the legal history of race relations in the United States, and civil rights of Latinos. He will speak on the treatment of immigrants under the Constitution; racial, ethnic, and religious minorities under the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment; and hate speech under the First Amendment.

**VIVIAN KHALAF** is an immigration law specialist and partner at the Chicago law firm ImmigrationJD, LLC. She will provide an overview of the US immigration system and its treatment of political refugees, as well as the legal capacity and current practices of the federal government with regard to the exclusion or limitation of would-be immigrants based on ethnicity, religion and country of origin.

**JOHN BREEN** is a professor of law at Loyola University Chicago, where he teaches courses in jurisprudence, Catholic social teaching, and professional responsibility. He is a current member and past president of the Arab American Bar Association of Illinois. He will speak on the professional duty of attorneys to treat others with respect; and the professional responsibility of lawyers not to engage in discrimination based on race, sex, religion, or national origin.

**MODERATOR**

**WILLIAM HADDAD** (Ret.) served as a civil trial judge in the Law Division’s Jury Section of the Circuit Court of Cook County. He has presided over 350 civil jury trials in Cook County, including complex commercial matters, medical malpractice, product liability, and major accident cases. He is a founding member and past president of the Arab American Bar Association.